

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HCV	HCV protease NS3/4A	<p>Synthesis studies produced oxygen-containing macrocyclic peptidomimetics that may be useful for treating HCV. In an HCV replicon assay, two of the macrocyclic peptidomimetics had an EC₉₀ value of 30 nM compared with 350 nM for boceprevir, a first-generation inhibitor. Next steps include studying the drug metabolism and pharmacokinetic profiles of the oxygen-containing macrocyclic peptidomimetics.</p> <p>Boceprevir, an HCV NS3 protease inhibitor from Schering-Plough Corp., is in Phase III testing to treat HCV infection.</p> <p>Telaprevir, a small molecule HCV NS3 protease inhibitor from Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc., Johnson & Johnson and Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corp., is in Phase III testing for HCV.</p> <p>At least five other companies have HCV NS3 protease inhibitors in Phase II or earlier.</p> <p>SciBX 2(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.317 Published online Feb. 26, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Velázquez, F. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Jan. 21, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801201u</p> <p>Contact: Francisco Velázquez, Schering-Plough Research Institute, Kenilworth, N.J. e-mail: francisco.velazquez@spcorp.com</p>